STATE OF KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

TRUMPET

September 2012
Volume 2 Issue 9

From the Desk of the State Fire Marshal, Doug Jorgensen

As the new school year begins, the Office of the State Fire Marshal remains extremely busy as schools, colleges and universities all over the state greet an influx of students. This time of year begins our annual inspections of school facilities and also brings with it a reminder that September is Campus Fire Safety Month and that Fire Prevention Month is approaching.

It was just a year ago that Kansas suffered the loss of two Emporia State University international students in a tragic fire in their off-campus home. Sadly, this is an issue not exclusive to Kansas. Across the country we have lost 155 people in campus-related fires since January 2000, with 85% of them occurring in off-campus housing. Education and awareness are vital to stopping this tragic loss of life; so I urge you to take advantage of the information in the Trumpet. We have concentrated a great deal on campus fire safety, recognizing only a few outstanding examples of our local fire departments and their college and university counterparts.

In addition, I would like to recognize and thank Governor Brownback for his strong support of this Office and the Kansas Fire Service, and for his unwavering commitment to fire and life safety of all Kansans. The Governor demonstrated his commitment by signing a proclamation designating September as *Campus Fire Safety Month* in an effort to increase public awareness, specifically among students and their parents. In front a backdrop of fire officials from across the state, the Governor also recently proclaimed October as *Fire Prevention Month* and proclaimed August 13, 2012 as *Firefighter Day* in Kansas recognizing the proud 125-year anniversary of the Kansas State Firefighters Association.

The OSFM is also pleased to have been asked to participate in a statewide group working to raise awareness of the danger of wildfires in Kansas. Kansas Forest Service officials and a variety of Federal and State stakeholders have been working with the Kansas Fire Prevention and Education Team to craft a strategy to raise awareness and provide educational resources regarding wildfire danger in Kansas. The media reports 41,000 acres have burned across the state since April, which makes 2012 one of the worst years for wildfires on record. In comparison, last summer only 6,000 total acres burned. Recent rains have done little to impact existing drought conditions, making the threat of any wildfire significant and the work of those involved in the project an important part of public safety in Kansas.

Although it has been busy, I continue to make every effort to get around the state as often as possible to attend functions, meet with local fire service officials and organizations and watch my staff at work. We continue to work hard to build a strong and positive partnership with all the fire services in the state, and stand ready to assist you and your department to improve fire and life safety in Kansas.

September is Campus Fire Safety Month

Inside this Edition

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CURRENT EVENTS

For Immediate Media Release - August 29, 2012
Tim Phelps, PIO, kswildfireprevention@gmail.com

Unusually Dry Year Resulting in More Wildfires

Recent rains do little to reduce fire danger

MANHATTAN, KS. –The Kansas Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Team is urging citizens to adhere to local burning restrictions and take precaution when using equipment that can create a spark. The Team is a national multi-agency group of wildfire prevention specialists established to raise awareness of the severe threat of wildfire the state is experiencing due to the drought conditions.

"Kansas is experiencing a unique and extreme level of wildfire activity this year compared to previous years," said Tim Phelps, Public Information Officer with the Team. "Extreme caution and conservative judgment should be used when conducting any outdoor burn where restrictions are not currently in place or using equipment that can cause a spark - like brush mowers and hay balers."

Droughty conditions are making the landscape particularly vulnerable to the ignition and spread of fire. Since March, Kansas Forest Service officials have estimated that more than 41,000 acres have burned across the state, making it one of the worst years for wildfire on record. Last week alone there were seven fires resulting in over 8,000 acres burned. These fires are burning hotter and are more difficult to control making suppression by firefighters more dangerous.

Making matters worse is the fact that these wildfires are resulting in greater property loss than in previous years. According to the Kansas Forest Service, there were 26 structures lost due to wildfire so far this summer. Compare that to the fact that no structures were reported lost over the past seven summers, and the severity of the situation really comes to light. In addition to structural losses, burned hay fields can now be considered property losses since the likelihood of re-growth is low due to extreme drought conditions.

Many counties across the state have burn bans in place or are not issuing burn permits because of these extreme conditions. As always, citizens should check for local restrictions or burn ordinances issued by county or municipal governments prior to conducting any outdoor burning. Where restrictions are not in place, the Council is recommending that citizens delay any outdoor burning until their area receives a significant amount of rainfall.

Field equipment, such as brush mowers and hay balers, should be equipped with fire extinguishers in case the equipment strikes a surface that could cause a spark and ignite the dry vegetation.

According to the National Weather Service, much of Kansas is currently experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions. Relief does not appear to be coming anytime soon as there is very little chance of precipitation forecast through the Labor Day weekend and into next week. Even a slight chance of a rain shower will do little to ease the drought or reduce the threat of wildfire.

Group Warns Kansas Fire Danger Continues

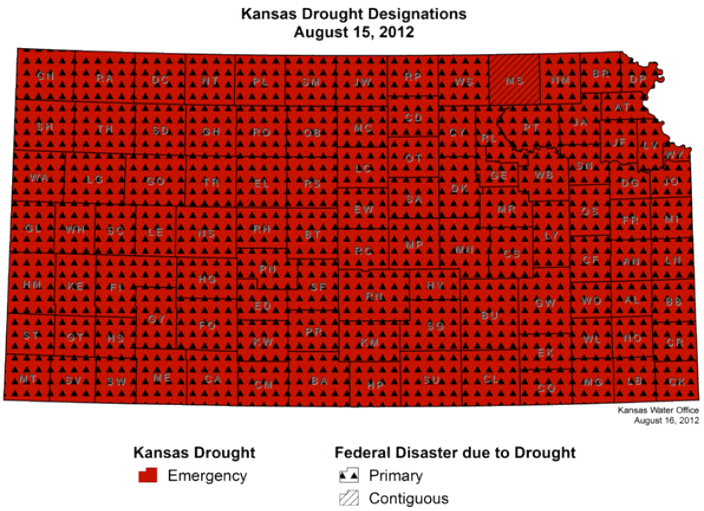
by The Associated Press

Resident of drought-stricken Kansas are being urged to continue observing local burn bans as the risk of wildfires remains high.

A multiagency group called the Kansas Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Team said Wednesday, that recent, scattered rain did little to lower the threat. The Education Team says Kansas should be especially careful using equipment that may create sparks. Meanwhile, the Kansas Forest Service reports that more than 41,000 acres and 26 structures have burned statewide since May. The agency says the past week alone saw seven fires that scorched more than 8,000 acres.

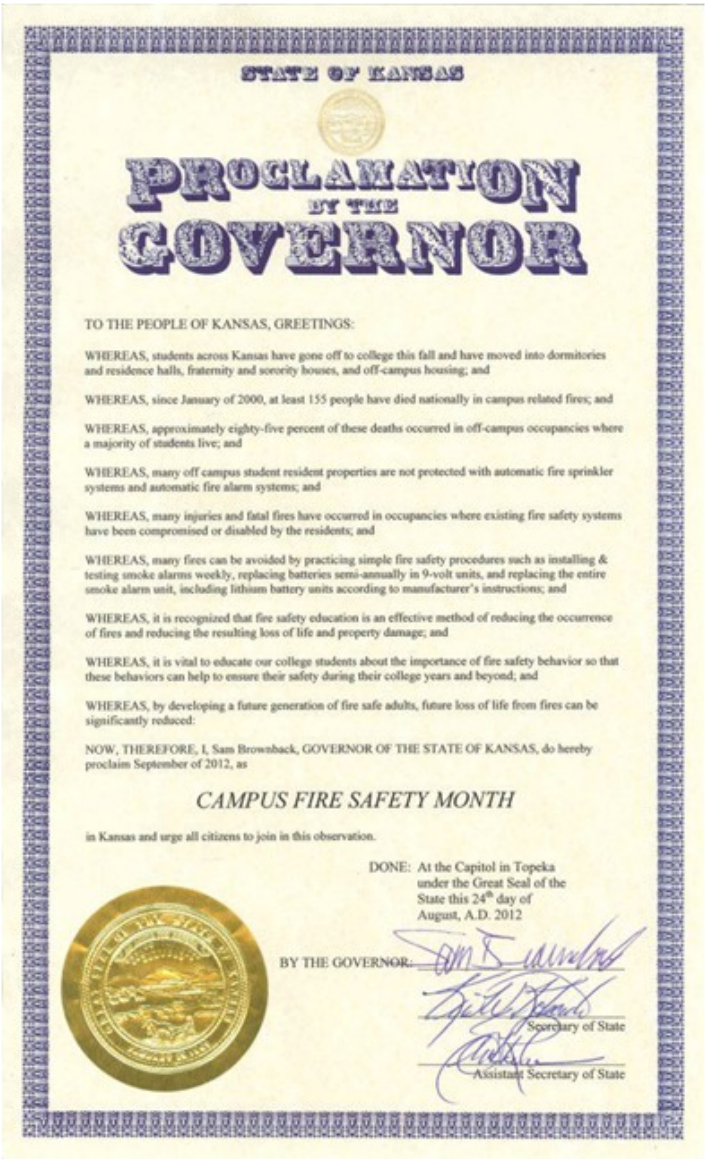
Officials say this summer's fires are burning especially hot, making them harder to suppress. Rain chances are in the forecast over the Labor Day weekend, but the precipitation isn't expected to eliminate the drought conditions.

Kansas Water Office Drought Designations Maps



September is Campus Fire Safety Month

Governor Brownback Proclaimed September Campus Fire Safety Month



STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, students across Kansas have gone off to college this fall and have moved into dormitories and residence halls, fraternity and sorority houses, and off-campus housing; and

WHEREAS, since January of 2000, at least 155 people have died nationally in campus related fires; and

WHEREAS, approximately eighty-five percent of these deaths occurred in off-campus occupancies where a majority of students live; and

WHEREAS, many off campus student resident properties are not protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems; and

WHEREAS, many injuries and fatal fires have occurred in occupancies where existing fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the residents; and

WHEREAS, many fires can be avoided by practicing simple fire safety procedures such as installing & testing smoke alarms weekly, replacing batteries semi-annually in 9-volt units, and replacing the entire smoke alarm unit, including lithium battery units according to manufacturer's instructions; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate our college students about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by developing a future generation of fire safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim September of 2012, as

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

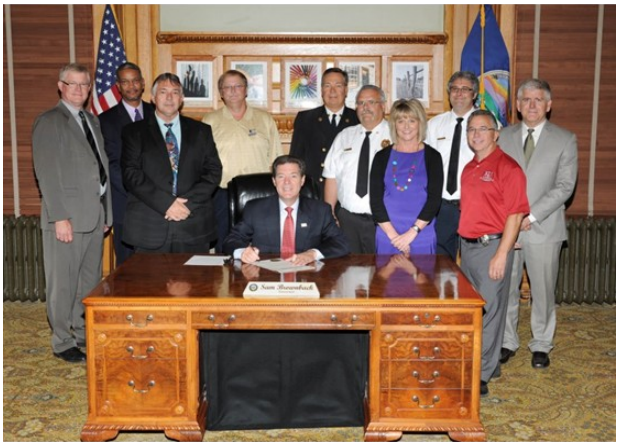
in Kansas and urge all citizens to join in this observation.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 24th day of August, A.D. 2012

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



Emporia Fire Department Demonstrates Fire Simulators

The Emporia Fire Department had a two-room fire simulator at the Emporia State University Block Party. The simulator was used to demonstrate how fast a fire can spread in rooms with and without sprinkler systems.

The simulator was setup on East 11th Avenue just off Commercial. To a predominately college crowd estimated at nearly 1,000, the simulator showed students just how quickly a typical dorm or apartment room could become fully engulfed in flames. As the crowds watched in awe you could hear student comments and see an increased awareness.

After extinguishing the unsprinklered room, fire department personnel lit an identical sprinklered room. As the crowd watched, the sprinkler extinguished the flames in a matter of seconds. The smoke damage was still evident but students could see first hand the benefits of sprinklers.

In the final analysis the room without the sprinkler system took about two minutes before the fire flashed at 1,200 degrees. The room with the sprinkler system took about 15 seconds before the sprinkler came on and extinguished the fire.

Fire Marshal Tom Andrews stressed smoke detection in homes, apartments and dorm rooms so occupants have as much early warning as possible in the event of a fire. He also encouraged students to plan their escape by giving some real thought as to how they would get out of their residence in a real emergency.

Mark Runge, Director of University Facilities at Emporia State University spearheaded the simulator project. Paul Challender of Emporia Construction built the simulator and donated a lot of material. Tom Peterson, an environmental scientist at ESU, acted as a liaison between ESU and the fire department.

Fire Chief Jack Taylor and the Emporia Fire Department have worked hard since the deaths two ESU international students, to ensure nothing like this happens again.

KU Daily Kansan Reports
Fire Drills Planned for Student Housing

There will be unannounced fire drills for on-campus housing sometime during the first 10 days of the semester, according to a statement from Diana Robertson, student housing director at the University of Kansas.

The drills will be conducted in residence halls, scholarship halls and Jayhawker Towers. Evacuation routes are posted on the back of each student's room door with assembly areas designated. Once the drill is complete the KU Public Safety and the Lawrence–Douglas County Fire and Medical services will give the "all clear" for students to return to their residences. With an unplanned alarm, vehicles from both agencies will be dispatched to the building.

The University is performing the drills to comply with regulations from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the International Fire Code, which requires two fire drills per building per semester. Drills are held to allow residents and staff to practice the evacuation process, reinforce the urgency of following safety procedures and offer an opportunity to test fire safety equipment.

Pittsburg Fire Marshal
Teaches University RAs Fire Safety

Pittsburg Fire Department Fire Marshal Mike Simmons went over fire safety issues with the Pittsburg State University student resident advisors during an on-campus training session.

As students all over Kansas return to college and university campuses our fire departments are actively teaching and supporting fire safety and fire safe behaviors on and off campuses.

Michael H. Minger FOUNDATION

The Minger Foundation has some outstanding resources including a Guide to Teaching Fire Safety to Students with Disabilities, that comes with a series of videos on fire safety featuring students with disabilities.

They also created a set of fire safety posters and an RA Guide to Teaching Fire Safety to help support Resident Assistants in colleges to promote fire safety.

CAMPUS Firewatch™ IN PUBLICATION SINCE 2000 — igot2kno.org PARENT'S MEMORIAL PAGE

Campus Firewatch™ started out in May 2000 as a monthly, electronic newsletter focusing on the complex issues of campus fire safety. With 18 million students stretched across 4,100 campuses, it is an important issue.

Campus Firewatch™ in their continuing effort to improve fire and life safety on college and university campuses has some pretty incredible accomplishments including the passage of the provisions in the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act, the launch on Capitol Hill of National Campus Fire Safety Month, a campaign to encourage states to proclaim Campus Fire Safety Month, a launch in the United Kingdom and much more.

They are now introducing a new, innovative tool that is available for campuses across the nation to use in sharing information about providing fire safety to students. The **Guide to Campus Fire Safety** wiki has been launched for use by campus fire safety educators, fire departments and others interested in campus fire and life safety.

This wiki, started with information from 13 years of Campus Firewatch™ newsletters, is designed to be a collaborative effort looking for additional contributions from the campus fire safety community. Wikis are in widespread use in businesses and schools and this is an excellent application to capture the breadth of information relating to campus fire safety from engineering to education and enforcement.

Ed Comeau, publisher of Campus Firewatch™, who created and is managing the Guide, indicated that by having people who practice campus fire safety adding to the collective knowledge, they can build an online store of information that is freely available for people to use, everywhere. Some of the broad topics include:

- Education (hazards, ignition sources, videos, posters)
- Emergency Management (incident management, mass notification)
- Enforcement
- Engineering (fire/smoke alarm and sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers and retardants, compartmentation)
- Fire Prevention (statistics, calendar of events, hazards)
- Fire Safety (egress, students with disabilities)
- Incidents and Case Studies
- Occupancies (on-campus, off-campus, Greek housing)
- Organizations (a list of organizations with resources)
- Outreach (social media, traditional media)
- Students (Millennial generation, students w/disabilities)
- Technology (QR codes, smart phones, tablet computers)
- Town/Gown Relations

This and many other excellent resource are available from Campus Firewatch™ at www.campus-firewatch.com including podcasts, videos, millennial student research, a map of fatal campus-related fires across the nation, legislation, disability information, educational resources, current fire information and trends updated regularly, Capitol Hill Day activities and copies of state proclamations for Campus Fire Safety Month designations.

Governor Brownback Signs "Firefighter Day" Proclamation

STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, On August 13, 1887, a group of Kansas fire service leaders met at Minneapolis, Kansas and organized the Kansas State Firemen's Association for the benefit of present and future Kansas firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas State Firemen's Association eventually changed its name to the Kansas State Firefighter's Association; and

WHEREAS, The primary goal of the Kansas State Firefighter's Association is to be dedicated to the safety and education of the Kansas firefighter; and

WHEREAS, to provide for the safety of Kansas firefighters, the Kansas State Firefighter's Association provides free training to firefighters all across Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas State Firefighter's Association has enjoyed a rich and proud heritage & is the pre-eminent fire service organization in the state of Kansas:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim August 13th of 2012, as

Firefighter Day

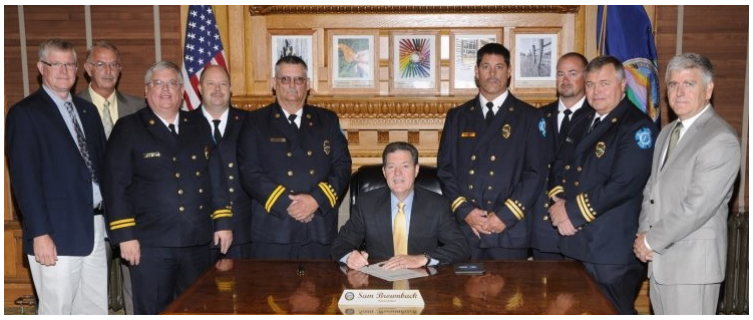
in Kansas recognizing the 125th anniversary of the Kansas State Firefighter's Association and ask that all citizens join in this observation.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 26th day of July, A.D. 2012

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State



Nominations Being Accepted
Tom McGaughey Award - 2012

On the evening of Thursday, November 21, 1968 a fire alarm was received from the Yingling Chevrolet Company of Wichita, Kansas. While fighting the fire, the roof collapsed and Fire Chief Tom McGaughey, Chief Fire Inspector M.O. Wells, firefighters Dale J. Mishler and Jimmy Lee Austin were trapped under tons of burning debris and twisted steel.

Tom McGaughey, Fire Chief

The aftermath of the Yingling Chevrolet Fire November 21, 1968

In 1971, in memory of Chief Tom McGaughey, his fellow firefighters and this tragic event, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Kansas State Firefighters Association adopted the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award to be presented at the Fire Chiefs Conference to the fire department and the firefighter or firefighters whose bravery and courage went above and beyond the call of duty.

Nominations for the 2012 calendar year are being accepted now. Nominations should be in the form of a letter that includes the details of the incident, the name or names of the firefighters you wish to nominate for bravery and courage above and beyond the call of duty. Additional documentation including pictures, video and/or news media articles will help support and justify your nominations. The deadline for accepting nominations is **September 15, 2012**. Send nominations to:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Attention: Tom McGaughey Award
700 SW Jackson, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3714

Please contact Brenda Schuette at (785) 296-0654 or brenda.schuette@ksfm.ks.gov with question/concerns.

As Chief McGaughey's funeral procession left the church, it proceeded past the Wichita Fire Department Station #1, where the men on duty stood at attention in a last display of respect to their fallen leader.

Local 9/11 Memorial Taking a Big Step

by Christine Vendel, The Kansas City Star

One year ago, a flatbed truck rolled into Overland Park carrying a one-ton steel beam from the fallen World Trade Center. The piece of history was requested through a program from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The burned and charred I-beam arrived last July and was placed in storage while the Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park began fundraising efforts, including finding firms to donate design and construction services.

Overland Park recently broke ground on the memorial site that will feature the 14-foot artifact along with four education panels. Officials hope the first phase of the memorial will be completed by September 11 so it can be dedicated on the 11th anniversary of the tragedy.

The memorial is being financed completely with private donations. The foundation has raised enough money so far to cover excavation of the site, the concrete foundation, placement of the artifact and steel educational panels. The artifact and panels will be situated so that every year on September 11, the sun will shine through a hole in the steel I-beam and illuminate a timeline on the education panels that shows when each of the four airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center buildings, the Pentagon and the field in Pennsylvania. The light will shine on each flight at the exact time each plane went down, said Overland Park Fire spokesman Jason Rhodes.

Firewise Toolkit

The Firewise Communities Program provides a number of proven tools and resources for homeowners and other community residents who work tirelessly to help prepare for and reduce the risk of wildfire damage and loss in their neighborhoods.

Below, please find our new Firewise Toolkit, a collection of these helpful resources in one easy-to-find place. The entire toolkit or its pieces can be downloaded and printed for meetings, presentations and for individual use. The pieces of the toolkit include:

- Facts about NFPA's Firewise Communities Program
- A Guide to Firewise Principles
- Firewise Tips Checklist for Homeowners
- Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program Checklist
- Guidelines for Spelling/Usage of Firewise
- Guidelines for Using the Firewise/NFPA Logo

You can also download the full toolkit Firewise is a project of the National Fire Protection Association providing information and resources to learn more about wildfire safety and to share that knowledge with others.

OSFM Staff Greet the Pink Heals Fire Truck Tour

The Pink Heals Fire Truck Tour with four pink fire trucks, and thousands of signatures, rolled into Topeka recently to bring awareness to breast cancer research. The firefighters who conduct the tour spend countless hours traveling from city to city driving their pink fire trucks, and wearing their pink t-shirts and their pink bunker gear.

The founder Dave Graybill, a retired firefighter says they are doing what men should do: honoring, protecting and standing up to anything that might harm their women and children. Firefighters all over the country use vacation time to help with the tour.

On Thursday, August 9th when the Tour rolled into Topeka, members of the Office of the State Fire Marshal were onhand to greet the Tour and get their picture taken with crew members. Pictured are Barb Sumpter, Chris Dibbern, Brenda Reber, Brian Love, Adam Lespreance, Terry Maple, Jack Chatmon, Mel Stewart and Diana Wilson.

Filling A Need

by Gary Demuth, The Salina Journal

Those familiar with the Abker family know that when their pagers go off, dad, mom, son and daughter are likely to jump up and run out of the room with little to no explanation. Friends and relatives aren't offended because they know time is of the essence for the Abkers. The family has precious little time to dash to Rural Fire District No. 3's Hedville station, suit up in fire gear, pull fire and rescue vehicles out of the garage and race to a grass fire, structure fire, car or truck fire or highway accident.

From the first pager beep to arrival at the fire scene, the Abker family and more than 40 other rural firefighters and emergency medical technicians on District 3's roster -- which includes fire stations in Hedville, Bavaria, Glendale and Brookville - can usually can be on the scene in about 9 minutes.

"We've left weddings, funerals and church events, just because our pagers have gone off," said mom Shondra Abker, 45, who drives trucks to fire scenes and is responsible for starting water pumps on the truck. Son Sheldon, 22, and daughter Siarra, 20, have fought fires since both were 18 - even though you can't drive trucks until you're 21. "We don't have time to wait to explain ourselves. When the pager goes off, no matter what the time, no matter what the place, all four of us are out the door."

While most families keep jackets and overcoats by the front door of their home, fire gear is kept at the front door of the Abker home on Hedville Road. Scott Abker, 45, a firefighter for 27 years, is district fire chief for the four fire stations of District 3, which covers 177 square miles of western Saline County. He's also been a battalion chief for the Salina Fire Department for 22 years. It's good the Abkers love their jobs, since there's little monetary reward. For the Abkers and most rural firefighters, serving their communities and helping others is its own reward.

EMS Professional Justin Swank Educator of the Year

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) President Terry David (left) presented the 2012 Donald E. White Educator of the Year Award to Justin Swank.

Swank is a full-time paramedic with Finney County EMS and volunteer Captain Firefighter/Paramedic with Plains Fire Department and Meade County. Swank is very active in education, teaching many alphabet classes, initial and transition courses as the state moves to new certification levels in the EMS field.

Local Business and Community Member Honors Fire Department

by Ashley Bergner—Newton Kansan

The Newton Fire/EMS Station No. 3 had a very special visitor Friday morning. Dan Stroud brought his dog, Ruby, to greet the firefighters at the station who had saved Ruby's life several weeks ago when she was trapped inside a burning house. It was August 12 and the firefighters not only rescued Ruby but had to administer oxygen therapy using a pet oxygen mask donated by Invisible Fence of Central Kansas. Stroud wanted to find a special way to thank the firefighters for their service, so he presented the department with a handmade cross plaque. Dan Heinze from Stroud's Insurance Company, Heinze Insurance, helped coordinate event.

As an animal lover, this was a big deal for Dan Shroud who said Ruby is on the mend. A team effort, Newton firefighters Dan Bronson and Bobby Johnson, who had worked to resuscitate Ruby, were both at the station to accept the plaque.

Fire Chief Named Interim Emergency Manager

by Laurie Sisk, The Fort Scott Tribune

Fort Scott Fire Chief Paul Ballou was named Interim Emergency Manager for Bourbon County, replacing Keith Jeffers, who recently left the position.

Ballou will be working in cooperation with Deputy Interim Emergency Manager Delwin Mumbower, Bourbon County Rural Fire District #3 Coordinator, while Commissioners search for a permanent replacement.

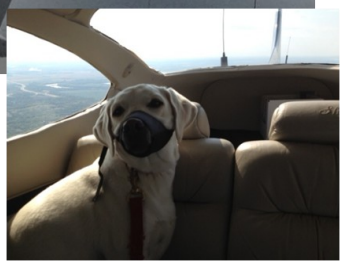
Investigation Division Staff Meeting and Training

by Chief Rose Rozmiarek

August 21-23, 2012 the Investigation Division held a staff meeting and training in Topeka, Kansas. All the investigators from around the state attended.

Among the topics covered during the training were: hazardous materials review, reporting and database usage, 800 digital radios, cell evidence, working with the Attorney General's Office Criminal Division, and the Kansas Highway Patrol aircraft resources.

Our canines, Tana and Scout were introduced to the aircraft as well in case they need to be flown to a scene. They both did well and the aircraft stayed in one piece.



The members of the Investigation Division not only obtained additional knowledge but gained resource contacts that will help during investigations.

We want to thank Dan Thompson, OSFM Haz Mat division, Kristiane Bryant, Assistant Attorney General, and Lt. Greg Kyser, KHP for providing instruction for the in-service training program.

Lawsuits Filed in Grain Elevator Explosion

by Fletcher Powell, AP

Families of four of the six people who died in an explosion at a grain elevator in northeast Kansas have filed wrongful-death lawsuits against some of the elevator's employees. The families contend employees of Kansas City-based Bartlett Grain Co., including the current president, disregarded the safety and health of the workers.

The explosion in October 2011 in Atchison killed four Bartlett employees and two grain inspectors. The lawsuits were filed by the families of the Bartlett employees. Investigators determined the explosion was an accident, but federal safety officials accused Bartlett of willfully ignoring workplace rules, proposing $406,000 in fines.

In a statement, Bartlett vowed to fight the fines saying employees acted appropriately and reasonably before the explosion.

Arson - Murder Suspect Bound Over for Trial in Fort Scott

by Jason E. Silvers, Weekend Herald Tribune

A two-day preliminary hearing in the case of a Fort Scott man facing charges of murder and arson in connection with a fire that occurred last fall found enough evidence to bind Brent Bollinger over for trial. Bollinger will be arraigned before Bourbon County District Judge Mark Ward, according to the County Attorney's Office. A date for this will be set by the court.

Testimony given by fire investigators Friday before Bourbon County Magistrate Judge Rebecca Stephan in District Court revealed the possible cause and origin of the deadly house fire that took place in Fort Scott last October.

Rose Rozmiarek, chief investigator with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, said she investigates incidents involving fire and explosives, and her initial response is to determine the origin or cause of the fire. Rozmiarek said she conducted a search following the incident with an accelerant detection canine, a tool she uses to identify any accelerants or liquids that may have been used to start the fire.

During a safety walk-through of the home's exterior, various fire patterns were observed. A similar walk-through that was conducted inside the house showed areas of concern. Burn patterns showed the fire came out of the upstairs bedroom window on the northeast side of the house, and that the children's bedroom is believed to be where the fire originated, Rozmiarek told the court. The dog found various "alerts" and areas of interest throughout the house, mainly in the upstairs bedroom where most of the fire damage occurred, that suggested use of accelerants. Rozmiarek said alerts were also found around the head and body of Bollinger's wife, Brenna, who died in the fire.

Wally Roberts, a special agent with the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, said he became involved in the case the day after the fire and said circumstances surrounding the fire called for a search warrant. He said his job is to look for other things that may have contributed to the fire, such as natural gas or propane. At the conclusion of his questioning by prosecutors, Roberts said it is his conclusion the fire was "incendiary" and set by a person.

Two firefighters found Brenna's body in the house and saw a red fuel can sitting next to a white SUV parked outside the garage of the home after inspecting the scene, but noticed nothing suspicious about the fire.

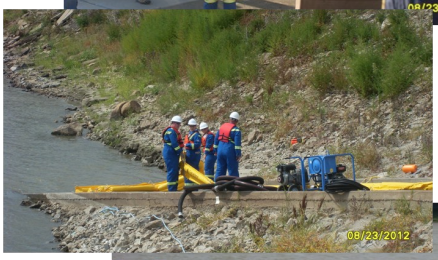
Brent Bollinger and his 2-year-old son, Bryson, survived the blaze but were both badly burned. Bryson was flown to Shriner's Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, with critical burns and was released about a month later.

Other testimony during the two-day proceeding included friends and family as well as various law enforcement and medical personnel who arrived on scene the night of the fire.

To read the entire article clink on this link
www.nevadadailymail.com/story/1875765.html

HAZ MAT NEWS

OSFM HazMat Staff Observe TransCanada Pipeline Demo



Dan Thompson and AJ Clemmons from the Hazardous Materials Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal had the opportunity to attend a demonstration by TransCanada Pipeline on the Missouri river in Atchison, Kansas recently. TransCanada company personnel laid containment boom as would be done if a real leak of their petroleum product was to occur.

The day started with introductions and a safety orientation meeting, then it was off to the site for more instruction to the boat crews as well as the on-shore operations section.

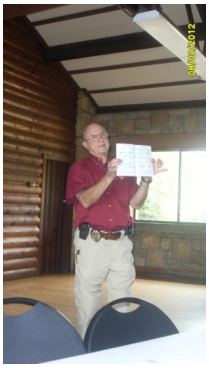
The goal was to lay three individual three hundred foot long booms from the area of the shore at a 30º angle into the river about 100 feet apart. The fast current as well as the strong wind from the South made the task very difficult. The crews found that they needed larger and more powerful boats than were available at the time. The new boat crews had a learning experience with swift water and wind and how those can affect the handling of a boat.

The retrieval of some of the buoy anchors was also a challenge with the debris that was on the bottom of the river as well as dodging floating debris coming down the river. All the available equipment functioned as intended and no personnel were injured as the day proved to be a learning experience for everyone.

Contact information was exchanged between numerous entities and pipeline personnel. Working relationships were forged as well. Lunch was provided by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline.

Thank you TransCanada Keystone Pipeline for your time, energy and commitment to our communities.

OSFM HazMat Staff Train Shawnee Parks and Recreation Employees



Personnel from the Hazardous Materials Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal made a presentation to the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation employees on the North American Emergency Response Guide Book.

The Parks and Recreation personnel through their normal duties encounter many unusual instances where chemicals are involved. Some personnel use various chemicals on an everyday basis while others come across abandoned chemical items in ditches and wooded areas.

This guide book and others can provide valuable information in an incident/accident involving chemicals and unknown products.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were also covered to familiarize personnel on what types of information is contained in an MSDS and who to call in an incident.

HazMat Training

80-Hour HazMat Technician Class
September 4—14, 2012
Haysville, Kansas

This Technician course is intended for personnel that may respond to and mitigate an incident involving hazardous materials/WMD. Emphasis is on using a risk-based response process, by which the student analyzes problems involving HazMat/WMD, selects applicable decontamination procedures, monitoring equipment (correct interpretation of data) and controls a release using specialized protective clothing and control equipment.

This is an intensive, hands-on course designed to meet all competencies as detailed within the NFPA 472 in a two-week format. This may require students to attend some evening classes and/or complete research assignments outside of scheduled class time. All students should be competent at the operations level prior to course start date. All students will be required to complete quizzes, written tests, course research project, and hands-on competencies with a minimum score of 80%. This course is free to all emergency responders. OSFM pays the IFSAC testing fee.

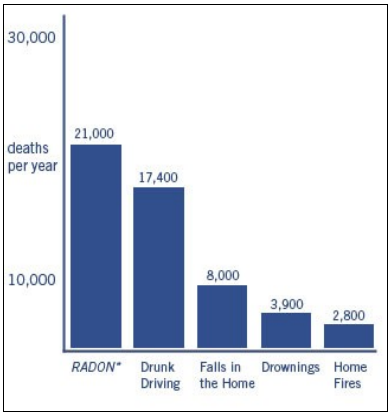
OSFM Contact: A.J. Clemmons, 785-207-2182
Email: aj.clemmons@ksfm.ks.gov

What Kansans Need to Know About Radon

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas.

You can't see radon, you can't smell it or taste it, but it may be a problem in your home. Radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year. That's because when you breathe air containing radon, you can get lung cancer. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. today.

Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. So, if you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is even higher.

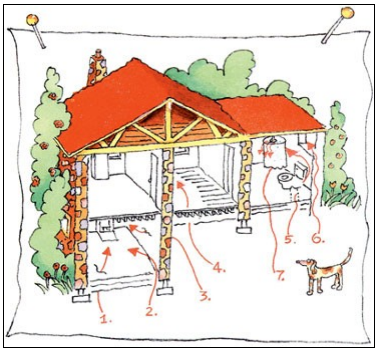


Radon can be found all over the U.S.

Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. It can be found all over the U.S. It can get into any type of building - homes, offices, and schools - and result in a high indoor radon levels. You're most likely to get your greatest exposure at home where you spend most of your time.

You should test for radon.

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon. EPA also recommends testing in schools. Testing is inexpensive and easy — it should only take a few minutes of your time. Millions of Americans have already tested their homes for radon. See the "how to test your home" below for information on testing your home.

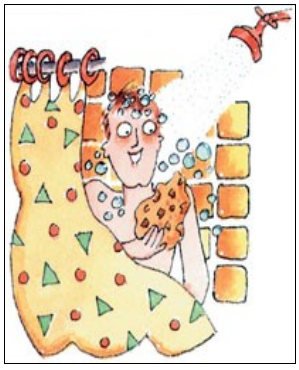


How Does Radon Get into Your Home?

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural decay of uranium, found in nearly all soils. It typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up.

Any home may have a radon problem, old or new homes, well-sealed or drafty homes, even homes with or without basements. Radon from soil gas is the main cause of radon problems but sometimes it enters through well water. In some homes, the building materials can give off radon, however, building materials rarely cause radon problems by themselves.

It gets into your home through 1) cracks in solid floors, 2) construction joints, 3) cracks in walls, 4) gaps in suspended floors, 5) gaps around service pipes, 6) cavities inside walls, or 7) the water supply.



Radon in Water

There are two main sources for the radon in your home's indoor air, soil and water supply. Radon entering your home through the soil is usually a much larger risk, however radon in your water supply does pose an inhalation and ingestion risk. Most of your risk from water comes from that released into the air when water is used for showering and other household purposes.

Radon in your home's water is not usually a problem when its source is surface water. A radon in water problem is more likely from ground water wither from a public water supply or private well. If your water comes from a public water supply, contact your water supplier, if you have a private well that supplies your home, you may want to test that supply for radon. If found, radon in water can be treated effectively treated in two ways.

How to Test Your Home

Even though radon can't be seen, it's not hard to test your home to find out if you have a radon problem. Testing is easy and should only take a few minutes of your time.

The amount of radon in the air is measured in "picocuries per liter of air," or "pCi/L". There are many low-cost "do-it-yourself" radon test kits you can get through the mail and in some hardware stores and other retail outlets. If you prefer, or if you are buying or selling a home, you can hire a qualified tester to do the testing for you. You should first contact your state radon office about obtaining a list of qualified testers. You can also contact a private radon proficiency program for lists of privately certified radon professionals serving your area. For links and information, visit www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Environmental Health manages the Kansas Radon Program. For more information check out their website at www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm or contact the state office at 1-800-693-5343 or 785-296-4359

Continued on page 13

Short-Term Testing

The quickest way to test is with short-term tests. Short-term tests remain in your home for two days to 90 days, depending on the device. The "charcoal canisters," "alpha track," "electret ion chamber," "continuous monitors," and "charcoal liquid scintillation" detectors are most commonly used for short-term testing. Since, radon levels tend to vary from day to day and season to season, a short-term test is less likely than a long-term test to tell you your year-round average radon level.

If you need results quickly, however, a short-term test followed by a second short-term test may be used to decide whether to fix your home

Long-Term Testing

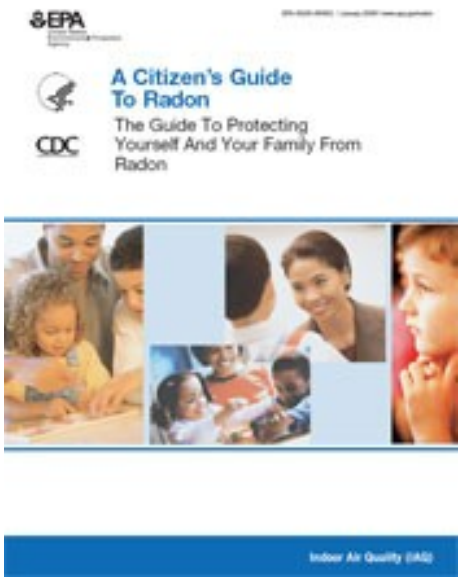
Long-term tests remain in your home for more than 90 days. The "alpha track" and "electret ion chamber" detectors are commonly used for this type of testing. A long-term test will give you a reading that is more likely than a short-term test, to tell you your home's year-round average radon level. You should consider fixing your home if the average of your first and second test is 4 pCi/L or higher.

What Your Test Result Mean

The average outdoor radon level is about 0.4 pCi/L and the average indoor radon level is estimated to be about 1.3 pCi/L.

Although Congress set a long-term goal that indoor radon levels be no more than outdoor levels, this goal is not yet technologically achievable in all cases. Most homes today can be reduced to 2 pCi/L or below.

The EPA believes that any radon exposure carries some risk and that no level of radon is safe. Even radon levels below 4 pCi/L pose some risk so lowering your radon level reduces your risk of lung cancer



There is a great deal of information available from the United States Environmental Protection Agency including A Citizen's Guide to Radon. For links and information, visit www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html.

How to Lower the Radon Levels in Your Home

Since there is no known safe level of radon, there can always be some risk, but you can reduce that risk by lowering the radon level in your home.

There are several proven methods to reduce radon in your home, but the one primarily used is a vent pipe system and fan, which pulls radon from beneath the house and vents it to the outside. This system, known as a soil suction radon reduction system, does not require major changes to your home. Sealing foundation cracks and other openings makes this kind of system more effective and cost-efficient. Similar systems can also be installed in houses with crawl spaces. Radon contractors can use other methods that may also work in your home. The right system depends on the design of your home and other factors.

The cost of reducing radon in your home depends on how your home was built and the extent of the radon problem. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs. The cost can vary widely so consult with your state radon office or get multiple estimates from qualified mitigators. The cost is much less if a passive system is installed during construction.

Lowering high radon levels requires technical knowledge and special skills. You should use a contractor who is trained to fix radon problems. A qualified contractor can study the radon problem in your home and help you pick the right treatment method. Check with your state radon office for names of qualified or state certified radon contractors in your area. You can also contact private radon proficiency programs for lists of privately certified radon professionals in your area. For more information on private radon proficiency programs, visit www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html. Remember, picking someone to fix your radon problem is much like choosing a contractor for other home repairs - you may want to get references and more than one estimate.

Ways to reduce radon in your home are discussed in EPA's Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction. You can also download a copy from our radon publications page.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION NEWS

The following article has been submitted by the Winfield Fire Department. The steps listed provide users of Firehouse® software with the ability to automatically submit their inspection reports to the OSFM using 3rd party software. The OSFM does not endorse, provide any software, or provide technical services used during this process. Please note, with the exception of the automated email process; the steps and fields in Firehouse ® are valid and can be used by any Firehouse® user.

Auto Tasking Inspection Reports

by Josh Dobbs, Firefighter/EMT Winfield Kansas Fire Department

What is something that every fire department faces when dealing with inspections? The answer is the state fire marshal's office needing records of these inspections. Most of the time these inspections have been completed, but they have yet to be sent to the state. So while discussing this issue with my Fire Chief Alan Stoll, formerly the deputy chief/fire marshal, I came up with a way to streamline this process using automated tasks in *FireHouse*® Software and our automated email client, Febooti.

The first thing that must be done is to ensure that your department and the fire marshal's office have all occupancies in sync, this is quite the task. The fire marshal's office can export their records out in an excel spreadsheet and email those records to your department. The inspecting agency must define which occupancies they are inspecting. In our instance, the state fire marshal's office had our department inspecting bulk fuel storage, in which we do not. Another crucial item was businesses that were no longer open, and gas stations that were no longer selling fuel. Getting all of the occupancies cleaned up on both ends takes a little time, but it is a good way to go through your occupancies and clean them up.

As outlined by Mel Stewart in the 3rd Quarter Prevention Highlights, all occupancies are assigned a KIDS number. The KIDS number is numbered by county and occupancy. Having this number on the reports that are sent in will help the fire marshal's office enter inspection info much faster. Once all occupancies are synchronized between your department and the state fire marshal's office then there are several things that must be done. The first is to build a query to pull only the occupancies that are inspected and sent to the state fire marshal's office. A user field can be created for this. Basically a combo box is created with yes or no as the options to select, and specify the label as "Inspection info sent to KSFM". This way the query can be set up to look for only the occupancies that have a yes in this field.

The second item that comes to play is the KIDS number. Our department does not use the Parcel ID field for anything in the occupancy table, so this is where we decided to put the KIDS number. Another issue we had was schools. Some of our schools have preschools in the same building, but we only conduct one inspection for the occupancy. Another user field was created as a result of this. Another combo box was created with yes or no as the options and the label is "Additional KIDS number attached to this occupancy". Text fields were also added to store this additional KIDS number and a description of the occupancy.

In a report I built, I added these user fields to display the KIDS numbers that are attached to the occupancies. Using the "print when" function of *FireHouse*® Report Writer you can specify when to print the additional KIDS numbers that are attached to the occupancy. In doing this, the occupancy report will not be cluttered with information that is not necessary. The occupancy report I created shows basically the same information that the KSFM sends out to each inspecting agency. Once the user fields are built, and the occupancy report is built then "Violation" notices and "No Violation" notices can be changed to show the KIDS number.

The violation notice and no violation notice that occupancy contacts receive do not need this info, so a copy of each of these reports must be made in order to make all of this work correctly. The filter for the violation and no violation reports will need to be changed so that information can be queried by date and the user field that corresponds with "Inspection Info sent to KSFM". In doing this, only the violation and no violation forms that the KSFM office needs will be queried. A date range will need to be set based on how often the KSFM office wants your info or how often you want to send it. We send them the first of every month. Whoever performs your inspections will need to make sure all inspections have been entered into *Firehouse*® the day before the reports are sent or the inspections will get skipped.

Now for the automation piece. If your department is not familiar with automated tasks *Firehouse*®, you may have difficulty understanding this part. The automated tasks can be set up to print reports automatically, whether to printers or PDF's. Using this function you can set violation and no violation reports to run on the first of every month. The date filter in each report should be set to look for records from the first of last month through the end of last month. Our department runs them at 7:00 on the first of every month. Through automated tasks, you can select the print to PDF option where it asks what folder to print to. This folder should be a folder created just for this report in order for the email client to function properly. Once the report has been printed to PDF, Febooti can be set to look for this file then attach this file to an email and send that email to the addresses that you specify.

Once everything is set up, you no longer need to worry about when you sent reports in because this will all be done automatically. I know lots of this information may seem confusing, so I have some screen shots available of what we've set up as well as the reports I've created to correspond with the KSFM. If you have questions feel free to email me at jdobbs@winfieldks.org or call (620) 221-5560.

Storage of Oxygen in Assisted Living Facilities

How much oxygen can be stored in a resident room in Assisted Living or Home Plus facilities?

For the tank to be considered "storage," the resident is not actively using the tank; this means there is no regulator and breathing apparatus (mask, cannula, etc.) connected for their use. In most cases, you will find jumbo-D or E cylinders used as a backup to an oxygen concentrator or generator. However, there are circumstances where these tanks are used as the primary supply delivery.

The storage of Oxygen in large quantities are considered to be hazardous, and according to NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, 2006 Edition, needs to be separated from the residential areas:

(32) 33.3.3.2.2 Hazardous areas, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following, shall be separated from other parts of the building by construction having a fire resistance rating of not less than 1-hour, with communicating openings protected by approved self-closing fire doors, or such area shall be equipped with automatic fire extinguishing systems:

1. Boiler and heater rooms
2. Laundries
3. Repair shops
4. Rooms or spaces used for storage of combustible supplies and equipment in *quantities deemed hazardous by the authority having jurisdiction*.

NFPA 101, goes on to further define hazardous areas as:

(32) 33.2.3.2.1 Any space where there is storage or activity having fuel conditions exceeding those of a one- or two-family dwelling and that possesses the potential for a fully involved fire shall be protected in accordance with (32)33.2.3.2.4 and (32)33.2.3.2.5

This definition does not provide any clarification or guidance as to what "exceeds" that found in a residential home, so the code is leaving this decision to the local jurisdiction. For our inspectors, we are accepting up to eight (8) Jumbo-D or E tanks to be stored in a room which does not meet the hazardous room requirements. In order for the storage of tanks to be acceptable in the resident's rooms, the tanks must be stored in a container which would protect the tanks from damage or tip-over; these containers are readily available from your oxygen supplier.

The tanks must also not be stored in a location which would obstruct the resident from escaping the room in the event of a fire. If the tanks are being stored next to the front door, they must be moved to a different location in the room. If there are more than eight (8) tanks being stored; the tanks must be kept in a container or area which meets the following code requirements:

(32) 33.2.3.2.4 Any hazardous areas that is on the same floor as, and is in or abuts, a primary means of escape or a sleeping room shall be protected by one of the following means:

1. Protection shall be an enclosure with a fire resistance rating of not less than 1-hour, with a self-closing or automatic-closing fire door in accordance with 7.2.1.8 that has a fire protection rating of not less than ¾-hour.
2. Protection shall be automatic sprinkler protection, in accordance with (32) 33.2.3.5, and a smoke partition, in accordance with section 8.4, located between the hazardous area and the sleeping area and the sleeping area or primary escape route, with any doors in such separation self-closing or automatic-closing in accordance with 7.2.1.8.

What the code is saying is there has to be a "hazardous room" inside the room, minus the separation if fully sprinkled. If the facility is fully sprinkled, a closet can be used provided there is a self-closing or automatic-closing door and the closet is not in the path of egress.

If your facility has questions on where oxygen can be stored or how it needs to be stored, please contact the Prevention Division at (785) 296-3401.

Congratulations!
Vintage Park in Baldwin City
"No Deficiencies" Cited

Many times facilities only hear about deficiencies which we encounter during our inspections. The Office of the State Fire Marshal will now try to identify and commend those facilities whose inspections result in **"No Deficiencies"** cited.

This month, we would like to recognize Vintage Park in Baldwin City for having **"No Deficiencies"** cited during their recent inspection.

Inspector Seth Toomey noted, "This facility has very good documentation they created themselves. The staff were very polite and went out of their way to make sure I got in to look at mechanical rooms, storage rooms and laundry rooms. Even the hair stylist gave the correct answers to fire safety questions."

Great job Vintage Park!!

Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Swinging Fire Doors

by Chris Dibbern

All fire doors and windows must comply with NFPA 80; currently Kansas references the 1999 edition. With the potential for new regulations (NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2012) being adopted by CMS for healthcare, many facilities need to become familiar with the 2010 and eventually 2013 editions of NFPA 80.

Recently OSFM inspectors had the opportunity to attend a webinar on the NFPA 80, 2010 edition. During this training the instructors talked about making sure all fire doors are maintained. This is done by function tests to ensure the fire doors are working properly and visual inspections to ensure all components are installed on the fire doors. They also referenced 5.2.1 which states: Fire door assemblies shall be inspected and tested not less than annually, and a written record of the inspection shall be signed and kept for inspection by the authority having jurisdiction. Things inspectors should look for:

- No open holes or breaks exist in surfaces of either the door or frame.
- Glazing, vision light frames, and glazing beads are intact and securely fastened in place.
- The door, frame, hinges, hardware and non combustibles threshold are secured, aligned and in working order with no visible signs of damage.
- No parts are missing or broken.
- Door clearances at the door edge to the frame, on the pull side of the door, do not exceed clearances listed in 4.8.4 and 6.3.1.7
- The self-closing device is operational - the active door completely closes when operated from the full open position.
- If a coordinator is installed, the inactive leaf closes before active leaf.
- Latching hardware operates and secures the door when it is in the closed position.
- Auxiliary hardware items that interfere or prohibit operation are not installed on the door frame.
- No field modifications to the door assembly have been performed that void the label.
- Gaskets and edge seals, where required, are inspected to verify their presence and integrity.

A fire door is not just the door; it is the entire door assembly; the frame, the door and the latching hardware. In order for the door to be rated as a UL approved fire door, each component must meet the standards, which means the manufacturer must submit those components for testing. If a door needs repair and non-rated hardware is used in its place, the rating of the door is now compromised.

When there is an identified need to repair the fire door(s), those parts should be from the door manufacturer and the door shall be tested to ensure closing upon completion of the repairs. All documentation of the repair, including the parts used and their approvals, should be kept with your inspection documentation. Facilities should keep all documentation reports on initial test inspection and annual inspections.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the building owners and/or property managers on keeping fire door assemblies in working conditions?

- Specify a door which will stand up to the amount of usage it will see; a door with a high frequency usage can be opened up to 5,000 times a day. That translates into more than 1.5 million cycles a year. If the door is not designed for that much use, the lifespan of that door will be significantly reduced.
- Ensure the doors and all of the components are in working order. Periodic checks of the door assembly can be done by maintenance staff. If there are deficiencies identified during these checks, repair should be made using approved parts.
- Do not alter the door labels or make modifications to the door(s).
- Ensure all documentation for the door(s) is kept with your inspection documentation.

If you or your staff have questions about fire doors, you may contact the OSFM Prevention Division at (785) 296-3401.

You may also go to the NFPA website, www.nfpa.org/80 to view the information about the code and training opportunities that may be available on this topic and others, including two free webinars:

- *Fundamentals of the 2010 NFPA 80: Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives*

- *Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Swinging Fire Doors*.

What's wrong with these pictures?

This facility does not have sprinklers at the highest point of the compartment. You can see that the facility is sprinklered but there is a 2-foot rise which has no sprinkler protection.

When inspecting an AST bulk fuel location recently the following automatic fire valve closure was found. Though this type of valve is not common, after industry research it is found that the valve will meet both NFPA 30 requirements for emergency fire valve shut off and Kansas regs.

This valve mechanism has a counter balance and works as follows:

1. The weighted ballast is connected to the valve via a lightweight chain and typical fusible link in the open position.
2. Once fire and heat burn thru the link the weight is released allowing the valve to close stopping the flow of fuel.

This valve needs to be tested annually by the operator, in this case our inspector had the facility owner demonstrate the functionality of the valve which passed.

Venting for Above Ground LP-Gas Bulk Storage Tanks

During a recent inspection of a propane facility OSFM cited the facility for not having a pressure relief value for a container of 2,000 gallon WC (water capacity) not having a vent pipe vertically point upward at least 7 feet above the top of the container.

While OSFM has adopted 2008 code and must enforce the minimum guidelines, if a more recent code edition is available and is given guidance that will supersede the adopted minimum requirement OSFM will entertain the information if provided to us during our enforcement.

The citation above does have a more recent code, 2011 that superseded this citation see code reference below:

6.7.2.7 The pressure relief valve discharge on each aboveground container of more than 2000 gal water capacity shall be piped vertically upward to a point at least 7-feet above the top of the container, and the discharge opening shall be unobstructed to the open air.

At this time OSFM has no plans to change to the 2011 edition of NFPA 58, bulk storage operators are encouraged to check to ensure their tanks are meeting the requirements listed in the 2008 edition of NFPA 58. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact Adam Lespreance, Enforcement Officer, Prevention Division at (785) 296-3401.

Douglas County Wants More Info on New Building Codes

by Alex Garrison, Lawrence Journal World

NO on I-Codes, at least for now. The Douglas County Commission postponed approval of a new set of building codes in its Wednesday night meeting, saying that more discussion with builders and public contribution was needed.

Kay Pettit, combination building inspector of the county zoning and codes office, presented the plan to switch from a 1997 code to the 2012 international set of codes, which several surrounding counties use and the city of Lawrence is on track to approve. Discussion lasted more than an hour, with Pettit explaining proposed amendments, and commissioners Jim Flory and Mike Gaughan expressing that they wanted to learn more before moving ahead with approval.

A Lawrence homebuilding group had sent the commission a letter asking for more process; one member of the public spoke in favor of the new rules at the meeting. Pettit said the I-codes as she amended them were "builder friendly" and that regulation like the county's first-ever insulation requirement helped builders and consumers. Flory said that he didn't understand the need for the county government to dedicate such rules.

All three commissioners eventually expressed support of the plan but moved to continue discussion with constituents and to have the issue tentatively put on the September 19 meeting agenda.

Campus Fire Safety Fact Sheet

Each year, across this country, college and university students, on-and off-campus, experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies. The causes include cooking, arson and accidents.

Most college based fires are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention. According to information compiled by Campus Firewatch™, the majority of student fire deaths, 86%, occur in off-campus housing that lacks sufficient exits, operable smoke alarms, and automatic sprinklers.

In addition, the misuse of candles, careless smoking habits and the use of alcohol and other substances which can impair judgment and hamper evacuation efforts all contribute to off-campus housing deaths.

As the fall semester approaches, colleges and universities are busy preparing for the arrival of residents to their campus communities. Some will be first-year students moving into residence halls. Other students will be moving off-campus and living on their own, some for the first time. For most of these students, the last fire safety training they had was in grade school; but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both on-campus and off-campus students understand fire risks and know the preventative measures that could save lives.

Cooking

- Cook only where it is permitted.
- Keep your cooking area clean and uncluttered.
- Keep flammable items like towels and food containers away from open flames.
- If you use electrical appliances - don't overload outlets.
- Never leave food cooking unattended.
- If a fire starts in the microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.
- If a grease fire startes, cover the pan with a lid and slide it off the burner to smother the flame.
- Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbeque grill, fire pit, or chimenea.

Candles

- Avoid using lighted candles! Scented, flameless candles are available and much safer.
- Do not leave candles unattended.
- Keep lit candles away from anything flammable.
- During a power outage, use a flashlight.
- Always extinguish candles before going to bed.

Smoking

- If you must smoke, do it outside.
- Use sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays.
- Make sure cigarettes/ashes are extinguished and never toss hot butts or ashes in the trash.
- After a party, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions - chairs and sofas catch fire and burn fast.
- Be alert - don't smoke in bed or a chair where you tend to doze. If you are sleepy or have been drinking, put your cigarettes out before you get cozy or go to sleep.

Escape Planning

- Know where your exits are; keep them clear of clutter and have two ways out of every room.
- If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit.
- Use the stairs, never the elevator during a fire.
- If you are trapped, call the fire department and tell them where you are, seal the area under your door with towels and signal from your window.
- If you have a disability, be sure others know what kind of assistance you need to exit a building.
- Take fire drills seriously, never assume it's not about you, exit properly.

Off-Campus Fire Safety—Questions to Ask???

- Are smoke alarms properly installed, preferably interconnected and maintained?
- Are there at least two ways out of the unit or home and out of every sleeping area?
- Do the upper floors of the building have at least two interior stairs or a fire escape?
- Is there a fire sprinkler system installed and maintained?
- Are the existing electrical outlets adequate for all your appliances and equipment you have without extension cords?
- Does the building have a fire alarm system installed and maintained?
- Has the building's heating system been inspected in the past year?
- Is the building address clearly posted to enable emergency services to locate it quickly in the event of an emergency?
- Do the sprinkler and/or fire alarm systems send a signal directly to the local fire department or campus security?

On-Campus Fire Safety Factors

- Improper use of 911 notification systems delays emergency response.
- Student apathy is prevalent. Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat in their environment.
- Evacuation efforts are hindered since fire alarms are often ignored.
- Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and pre-planning.
- Vandalism and improperly maintained smoke alarms and fire alarms systems inhibit early detection of fires.
- Misused cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits and improperly used or maintained extension cords increase the risk of fires.
- In cases where fire fatalities occurred on college campuses, alcohol was a factor. There is a strong link between alcohol and fire deaths. Alcohol often impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts.

AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANIZATION NEWS

State Fire Marshal Supports Community Partnerships in Fire Safety, Firesetter Intervention and Injury Prevention

Safe Kids Kansas

School is back in session, the beautiful fall days and cooler weather make outdoor activities like camping and hiking a fun family time, and although we have had some rain, conditions across Kansas are still very dry so check with local authorizes before burning.

Remember to Make Safety a Priority While Camping and Hiking

Sleeping bag? √ Check. Hiking boots? √ Check. Safety guidelines? A must! While the preparations for a family camping or hiking trip usually include a review of the necessary gear, parents should also review safety guidelines with their children, paying special attention to potential hazards specific to camping, hiking, outdoor recreation, water and falls.

Camping and hiking can be a wonderful activity for parents to do with their children, but it is essential to remember key safety guidelines since you are leaving the daily environment your kids are used to. This may be the first time a family is purposely starting a fire outdoors, a long way from a pressurized water supply or the nearest fire engine, and it is a serious responsibility.

Campfires, portable stoves, heaters and fuel-burning lanterns – in addition to the danger of starting an uncontrolled brush fire – all produce carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless and odorless gas that can poison a child very quickly. This is something most of us may not think about when camping, but about 30 campers each year die of CO poisoning in the U.S. Safe Kids recommends the following safety guidelines around campfires and portable heating devices.

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never use matches, lighters, candles or any device powered by kerosene, propane or other heating fuel inside a tent or camper.
- Always actively supervise children near a campfire or portable stove.
- Follow posted rules about campfires, and do not light fires in windy or excessively dry conditions.
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel near the fire at all times, and extinguish the fire completely before going to sleep or leaving the site.

Also keep these guidelines in mind while camping and hiking:

- Keep first aid supplies and emergency phone numbers handy.
- Cell phones may not work, so know where the nearest phone is located.
- Let friends/relatives know where you're going and when you'll be home.
- Never let children hike alone.
- Dress in layers of clothing to help prevent heat-related illness and hypothermia. A child's body temperature changes faster than an adult's.
- Don't push kids to go on a longer more strenuous hike than they can handle, exhausted children are more likely to fall, wander off or get hurt.
- Bring plenty of drinking water or sports drinks and high-energy snacks.
- Kids should wear hiking boots and clothing that offers protection from scrapes, bites and poisonous plants.
- Always supervise children near water and insist on personal flotation devices when on boats, near water or participating in water sports.
- Apply sunscreen rated SPF 15 or higher to exposed skin 15 to 30 minutes before going out, and reapply frequently.

For more information visit Safe Kids Kansas at www.safekids.org.

Kansas EMS Pediatric Symposium

KEMSA Offers Six Scholarships EMS Management Training

The Emergency Medical Services Region 6 is sponsoring up to six people to attend the KEMSA 2012 EMS 4-day management workshop in Manhattan.

For details about the workshop go to http://www.kemsa.org/AdminWorkshop

The available scholarships will cover the conference and lodging fees (up to $75/night) for the night before and the night between class dates if the recipients agree to specified criteria which can be reviewed at the site above.

Please respond to Kenny Yoakum, Secretary at Supervisor@crems.org or 620-231-3344 by September 29th at 1200 hours if you are interested.

Fire Education Association of Kansas Awards Eight Mini-Grants

"Fire Prevention in a Box" Kits

Once again the Fire Education Association of Kansas offered mini-grants in the form of the NFPA "Fire Prevention in a Box" kits for 100. The kits include a banner, posters, and 100 each adult and children brochures, stickers, magnets, fire fact newsletters and bags.

In addition, recipients received a FEAK membership for the remainder of this year and CY 2012. The recipient departments agreed to attend a FEAK meeting or provide a written summary of their activities including pictures during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2013.

Concordia Fire Department - Fire Chief Larry Eubanks
Garnett Fire Department - Fire Chief Charles Tate
Holcomb Community Fire Department - Fire Chief Bill Knight
McLouth Fire Department - Fire Chief Darrell Chess
Mission Township Fire Department - Fire Chief Forrest Walter
Pottawatomie Township Fire Department - Fire Chief James Savage
Safe Kids Meade County - Coordinator Tammy Bird
Seward County Fire Department - Fire Chief Michael Rice

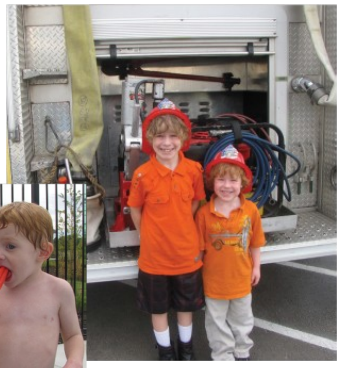
Charlie's House Raises Money and Awareness

Residents of the Overland Park Blue Stem neighborhood were treated to a pool party on June 23rd in honor of Charlie's House, the non-profit organization committed to preventing household injuries to children.

Charlie's House was presented with a check for $52,000 at the pool party which was the proceeds from the sale of a neighborhood home.

James Engle Custom Homes built the home in the Blue Stem addition with the sole intention of donating the proceeds to the organization, named for Charlie Horn.

Neighbor children were treated to ice cream and fire trucks during the party.



Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute

Staff from the Office of the State Fire Marshal were on-hand as the Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute showed off their new Grain Engulfment Rescue Trainer and equipment.

Consecutive Meetings Prove Successful

The FEAK (Fire Education Association of Kansas) and FMAK (Fire Marshals Association of Kansas) both met consecutively on July 25th in an effort to encourage and increase participation in both organizations.

Fire departments in Kansas, like many organizations, are experiencing budgets restrictions that impact time and travel outside their jurisdictions.

This belt-tightening was making it more and more difficult for members to attend both meetings, so the FEAK members discussed the issue and potential options on several occasions and decided at their last meeting to approach FMAK to see if they would be interested in looking at ways to accommodate our members, especially those with dual memberships.

FMAK was willing and agreed to meet on their regular day so FEAK agreed to change their meeting date and time after 25 years, work through lunch and provide pizza for everyone who stayed.

The result was positive, especially for those with dual memberships. Although some members were unable to stay, FMAK had 23 people at their meeting and FEAK had 17, the pizza was good and our dual members appreciated the effort.

If you appreciated the arrangement and would like to see future cooperation please let the Presidents of your organizations know.

Mike Hall—FEAK mhall@olatheks.org
Brad Henson—FMAK bhenson@olatheks.org

OTHER NEWS

Congratulations!!
Retiring Junction City Fire Chief Mike Steinfort

State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen and his staff want to wish retiring Fire Chief Mike Steinfort of the Junction City Fire Department all the best as he moves into the next phase of his life.

Chief Steinfort will leave his post effective November 1 after 23 years of service. He started with the JCFD in June 1989 advancing through every position in the department. Under his leadership the JCFD achieved a reclassified fire suppression rating of three by the Insurance Services Office which reduced fire insurance costs to city businesses and residences. Good Luck Chief . . .

Trumpet Deadline

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal *Trumpet* or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos or other information, please contact Elena. Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email.

Elena Nuss
785-296-3403
elena.nuss@ksfm.ks.gov

Want to make a difference?
Join the OSFM Team!

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is advertising two full-time classified positions as follows:

- **Fire Investigator** (law enforcement position) with duties primarily in Lyon, Osage, Coffey, Greenwood, Woodson and Elk counties. The requisition number for this vacancy is **172682**.
- **Accountant I** located in our Topeka office. The requisition number for this vacancy is **172681**.

The Notice of Vacancy and requirements for each position may be viewed at http://www.jobs.ks.gov. Both vacancies will close on Friday, September 7, 2012.

Recruiter Contact Information:
Name: Brenda L. Schuette
Phone: 785-296-0654
FAX: 785-296-8155
Email: brenda.schuette@ksfm.ks.gov

Congratulation!
Olathe Fire Department

Words cannot adequately express how excited the State Fire Marshal and his staff are for the men and women of the Olathe Fire Department on this exceptional achievement.

Program Manager Rick Fagan with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) presented Fire Chief DeGraffenreid and the City of Olathe Fire Department with the department's "Accredited Agency Award" for achieving accredited agency status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

There are thousands of fire department in the world, with about 38,000 of them in the United States. Of those fire departments in the world, only 160 are accredited and the Olathe Fire Department is one of them.